

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 133919
ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR:DMA
APPROVED BY AF/C:LDJUNIOR
EUR/WE:MCRAMANUS
-----121992 261107Z /10

R 252221Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CG

SUBJECT: UK CITIZENS AT FUNGURUME

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AMOCO MINERALS, MEMBER OF SMTF CONSORTIUM, THAT SEVEN SMTF EMPLOYEES, ALL UK CITIZENS, ARE BEING HELD AT FUNGURUME, UNABLE TO DEPART DUE TO GOZ EDICT AGAINST TRAVEL OF FOREIGN NATIONALS IN THE AREA. AMOCO REPORTS THAT THESE EMPLOYEES ARE SUBJECT TO HARRASSMENT OF 'HUNGRY' FAZ SOLDIERS IN THE AREA AND FEEL VERY INSECURE.

2. AMOCO REQUESTS THAT WE INTERVENE EITHER WITH GOZ TO FACILITATE THEIR DEPARTURE, OR THAT WE SUPPORT A CONSORTIUM REQUEST MADE TO GOF TODAY FOR FRENCH INTERVENTION TO THAT END WITH GOZ.

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3. WE EXPLAINED TO AMOCO THAT SINCE AFFECTED EMPLOYEES ARE NOT U.S. CITIZENS WE WOULD BE RELUCTANT TO MAKE APPROACH TO GOZ OR TO THE FRENCH UNDER EXISTING CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER, GIVEN AMOCO'S PARTICIPATION IN SMTF, WE DID AGREE TO REPORT THE FOREGOING AND TO REQUEST

THAT EMBASSY PARIS TAKE WHATEVER STEPS IT CONSIDERS APPROPRIATE WITH GOF TO SUPPORT SMTF REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT BRGM, THE FRENCH PARTNER IN THE CONSORTIUM, WAS SMTF SPOKESMAN FOR CONSORTIUM IN ABOVE-MENTIONED APPROACH TO FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY. VANCE

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